



WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Minutes

Thursday, 11th September 2014

ROOM 310, JOHN B HYNES VETERANS MEMORIAL CONVENTION CENTER

900 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, USA

Present

Trustees: Dr Raad Shakir, Dr William Carroll, Dr Wolfgang Grisold, Dr Gustavo Roman,
Dr Amadou Gallo Diop

Staff in Attendance: Laura Druce; Laura Kennedy

National Delegates/Representatives (Proxies) from:

Argentina- Dr Raul Federico Pelli-Noble

ANZAN- Prof Richard Macdonell

Austria- Prof. Dr. Michael Khalil (Representative)

Bahrain- Dr Adel Al-Jishi

Belgium- Dr Souraya El Sankari (Representative)

Brazil- Dr Elza Dias Tosta (Representative)

Canada- Dr Morris Freedman

Chile- Dr Renato Verdugo Latorre

Egypt- Prof Mohamed El Tamawy (Proxy for Syria and Kenya)

Estonia- Dr Sulev Haldre

Germany- Prof Ralf Gold (Representative)

Honduras- Prof Marco Tulio Medina

Hong Kong- Dr. Winnie Wong (Representative)

Hungary- Prof Laszlo Vecsei

India- Dr Chandreshkar Meshram (Representative)

Kuwait- Dr. Raed AlRoughani (Representative)

Moldova- Dr. Cristina Marcoci (Representative)

Norway- Prof Espen Dietrichs

Poland- Dr Wojtech Kozubski
Romania- Prof Ovidiu Bajenaru (Representative and Proxy for Israel)
Slovenia- Assoc. Prof. Uros Rot (Representative)
South Korea- Prof Beom S Jeon
Switzerland- Professor Christian Hess
Tunisia- Dr Riadh Gouider (Proxy for Jordan and Italy)
Turkey- Prof Serefnur Ozturk
UAE- Dr Jihad Inshasi (Proxy for Yemen)
United Kingdom- Prof Alastair Compston

Guests/Observers: José Biller (candidate for Elected Trustee); Dan Rivlin (Kenes International);
Tami Gaon (Kenes International)

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1. Introduction and welcome to delegates

The President, Dr Raad Shakir, opened proceedings and welcomed all Delegates to the meeting. He asked them for their support during the next four years of his Presidency.

2. Roll call and proxies

All Delegates had registered on entrance and been provided with ballot papers for themselves and their proxies. The Secretary-Treasurer General noted which delegates were present and for whom they held proxies.

3. Minutes of the COD Meeting in Vienna, 2013

The Minutes of the Council of Delegates, held in Vienna, Austria on Sunday, 22nd September 2013, were approved as a correct record on the understanding the two typing errors noted by Dr Shakir were corrected.

4. Professor Auff report on Vienna

Dr Shakir thanked Professor Eduard Auff and the Austrian Society on behalf of the Council for the wonderful effort they made in every aspect of the congress.

Professor Auff said that WCN 2013 was very successful. He presented a video about the congress to the Council which he invited them to view on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/nUIAiUI-8n0>

Professor Auff reported that WCN 2013, which was co-organized by WFN, The Austrian Society of Neurology and EFNS, had the motto 'neurology in the age of globalization'. There were more than 7,000 participants from over 130 countries. He expressed his thanks to Drs Donna Bergen and Werner Poewe for chairing the Scientific Program Committees and Drs Wolfgang Grisold and Franz Fazekas for chairing the Teaching Course Committees. He noted that the scientific and teaching course programs were the heart of the congress.

Professor Auff reported that the total revenue of the congress was approximately 5.5 million Euros, total expenses were 3.3 million Euros leaving a profit of 1.9 million Euros which was higher than anticipated. The profit was divided between the WFN and the Austrian Society/ EFNS.

Dr Shakir expressed his thanks to the Austrian Society and EFNS and noted that the EFNS had cancelled its own congress in 2013 to support the WCN. He also expressed his thanks to Kenes International, the Professional Congress Organizer.

5. Election of one Elected Trustee

Dr Shakir noted that the position of Elected Trustee was vacant as Dr Gustavo Roman had relinquished his position after two terms. Dr Shakir thanked Dr Roman for his hard work as a Trustee and noted his achievements including the establishment of the Pan American Federation of Neurological Societies. He noted that Dr Roman would continue to serve the WFN in his role as Chairman of the Latin American Initiative.

There were four candidates for the position of Elected Trustee: Dr José Biller (USA), Dr Riadh Gouider (Tunisia), Professor Man Mohan Mehndiratta (India), Dr Serefnur Oztürk (Turkey). Each candidate gave a short presentation and had previously published a statement in *World Neurology*. Dr Mehndiratta was not able to be present, so a statement was read on his behalf.

6. Voting and collection of papers

Delegates were asked to cast their vote for one candidate for Elected Trustee using the ballot papers provided. The papers were collected and counted by Mrs Laura Druce, Executive Assistant of WFN, under the supervision of Professor Eduard Auff.

7. Receipt of Annual Report 2013 - President's Report

Dr Shakir noted that the Trustees intended to involve the regions in leading the WFN, rather than centralizing decisions. They had been developing an action plan to be implemented over the next three years. The Trustees met in London in January and the Regional Directors were involved in this meeting.

A Regional Liaison Committee had been formed in order to develop ideas for WFN. This committee met in January, chaired by Dr Tim Pedley (USA). The Regional Liaison Committee's remit would include education, training, regional symposia, grants etc. The purpose was to allow regions to support their colleagues across regions.

Dr Shakir thanked Delegates for their support for the first Day of the Brain in July. He noted that the Specialty Network continued to involve many specialty organizations. Information about programs, grants etc. are shared with them.

Dr Shakir said that the role of Secretary-Treasurer General had been reviewed over the past few years, specifically by the Constitution & Byelaws Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Alastair Compston. The view of the Trustees was that the role should be separated into Secretary and Treasurer. This would increase the number of Trustees to seven and the number of Officers to four (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer).

Prof Compston reported that the Constitution & Byelaws Committee had inherited an analysis of the WFN constitution, which included the recommendation to separate the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. He noted that his successor, Professor David Vodusek, was in agreement with this recommendation.

The motion to accept this recommendation was proposed by the Delegate from the United Kingdom, seconded by the Delegate from Tunisia and approved unanimously. Dr Shakir confirmed that the Nominations Committee would seek nominations for the position of Treasurer plus an Elected Trustee for the next Council of Delegates meeting.

Dr Shakir reported that the Trustees had agreed to give 30% of the WFN's expenditure as grants. He presented the projects that had been approved in 2014 and noted that the WFN grants could not be awarded to support ongoing healthcare provision. He said that many of the projects that have been awarded grants this year were jointly led by institutions in high and lower-income countries. Many projects would also be partnered by specialty or national societies, such as the AAN.

Dr Shakir said that although the finances of the WFN were healthy, the WFN was not a wealthy organization. Grant funding was strictly controlled and the projects were followed up to ensure objectives were met and end results are achieved.

Dr Shakir reported that each National Society would receive a copy of *The History of the World Federation of Neurology* by Johan Aarli, which he noted was an excellent read.

8. First Vice President's Report

Dr William Carroll expressed his thanks to the organizers of MSBoston 2014 for allowing the WFN to hold its Council of Delegates during the meeting.

Dr Carroll noted that the WFN had regional initiatives in Asia, Africa and Latin America which were developing the framework for neurology in these regions. He reported that the WFN held some meetings during the AAN meeting in Philadelphia in April 2014 and has strengthened its relationship with the AAN. A stronger relationship is of benefit to both organizations. It is hoped that the relationship with the new EAN would be equally strong. In addition, the WFN would like to support less mature regional groups.

Dr Carroll noted that the Specialty Network and World Brain Alliance were external relationships and were intended to establish partnerships with other organizations. The Specialty Network was a loose affiliation of international specialty networks which were keen to partner with the WFN and one another. The Specialty Network met in Philadelphia and developed a mission statement. The WFN will present its educational activities to the network during the meeting that will be held during the EAN congress in Berlin in 2015.

The World Brain Alliance consists of some of the same groups as the Specialty Network plus some larger groupings. It provides a platform for an effective advocacy role. Both groups allow the WFN to expand its ability to effect change for the good.

Dr Carroll said that as Chair of the Congress Committee he knew the wonderful success of WCN 2013 in Vienna. He noted that the Congress Committee would meet during the afternoon for more detailed reports, including the status of WCN 2015. He noted that the budget was on track to make a modest profit. The number of speakers and teaching courses had been reduced, but there would be free teaching courses on offer. There had been good collaboration between the Local Organizing Committee and the PCO. He also thanked Dr Bergen for her contribution as Chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

Dr Carroll reported that the planning for WCN 2017 in Kyoto, Japan was on track. Committees had been established by the WFN and the Japanese Society.

Dr Carroll said that the planning for WCN 2019 was in its infancy. Two bids had been received to host the congress and the Congress Committee was looking at options to ensure it will go ahead without a hitch.

Dr Carroll noted that the policy of the WFN was to renew its contract with its PCO every three congresses. Three nominations had been received for the PCO contract commencing with WCN 2017. The decision would be made by the Trustees during the following week.

9. Secretary-Treasurer General's Report

Dr Wolfgang Grisold confirmed that he would remain as Treasurer until the Council of Delegates during WCN 2015 in Chile. He presented the 2013 financial statement which had been circulated to the Delegates and reviewed by the auditors. The income was 1.2 million Euros, which comes from several sources, primarily WCN and journal royalties. The expenditure was 753,000 Euros, leaving WFN with funds of 3.165 million Euros.

-Recommendation that Messrs Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co. be reappointed auditors for the Federation

Dr Grisold formally proposed that the Federation's auditors, Messrs Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co. be re-appointed for a further year. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Second ballot

Delegates were asked to cast their second ballot for either Dr Riadh Gouider (Tunisia) or Prof Man Mohan Mehndiratta (India) for Elected Trustee using the second ballot papers provided. The papers were collected and counted by Mrs Laura Druce, Executive Assistant of WFN under the supervision of Professor Eduard Auff.

11. Report on WCN 2015 – Dr Renato Verdugo

Dr Verdugo presented the status of WCN 2015. He confirmed that most speakers had been invited and the planning was on target.

There was a discussion about issues some delegates might face getting visas to travel to Santiago. Dr Verdugo agreed to investigate the issues and discuss any obstacles with the Ministry.

Ms Tami Gaon confirmed that there was already a letter on the website for WCN 2015 which delegates could use to apply for a visa. She confirmed that Kenes has a department dedicated to assisting delegates with potential issues. It was agreed that Kenes should publish a list on the website of those countries for which obtaining a visa might be problematic.

12. Education Committee Report

Dr Grisold presented the report on behalf of the Education Committee. He confirmed that the new Chair from the beginning of 2014 was Dr Steven Lewis. Dr Lewis is also the Editor in Chief of Continuum, so is well qualified for the role.

Dr Grisold reported that the Education Committee was responsible for monitoring grants and for the Junior Travelling Fellowships which are awarded each year. It also managed the accreditation of training centers. There are currently accredited centers in Peru and Morocco. A center in Cairo, Egypt has recently applied to be accredited.

Dr Grisold reported that successful Department Visit Programs had taken place in Turkey in 2012 and 2013. A new program would start in 2014 in Austria. The Education Committee was also working with a number of National Societies to develop similar programs.

Dr Grisold noted that the cooperation with the IFMSA was ongoing. The Continuum CME program, supported by the AAN also continues to be a success, although the WFN would like to encourage participants to move to electronic copies. The Education Committee was also working to develop a neurology curriculum.

13. Specialty Network

Dr William Carroll reported on the Specialty Network in his Vice-President's report.

14. Membership Committee Report

Dr Carroll confirmed that the Membership Committee was now chaired by Professor Jacques De Reuck. Professor De Reuck has written to a number of countries in Africa which are not yet WFN members to ask them to contact WFN to discuss how they could be supported. It is planned to carry on this activity via the Regional Directors in all areas of the World where the number of Neurologists is low.

15. Public Awareness & Advocacy Report

Dr Grisold said that the idea for World Brain Day had been presented by Dr Wasay during the Council of Delegates in 2013 and was endorsed by the meeting. The date of 22nd July was chosen as it was the anniversary of the inauguration of the WFN. There had been some challenges in organizing the day, but the committee had been able to produce a logo, banner, brochure and a template press release for the day. The National Societies played an exceptional role. More than fifty societies organized activities, with some holding patient days.

The planning had started for World Brain Day 2015. Dr Shakir noted that the WFN would like the WHO to endorse the day so it can be advertised through their offices.

16. Publications & Website Committee Report

Dr Grisold said that WFN publications currently consist of The Journal of the Neurological Sciences, the WFN Website and World Neurology. A new open access journal, eNeurologicalSci was also in development.

JNS had 1-2 articles per issue available as open access. The contract for the journal was under discussion with Elsevier. The decision would be made by the Trustees by the end of the month. eNeurologicalSci was proposed by Elsevier and would be will be fully open access, with the author paying for publication. It would be fully peer reviewed.

Dr Grisold reported that Dr Walter Struhal was the Chair of the Website Committee. Dr Struhal wanted to make the website more vivid and timely, increase the number of videos and make use of social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Dr Grisold noted that the WFN had approximately 15,000 email addresses to distribute World Neurology. He encouraged Delegates to ensure World Neurology is forwarded to their members if they are unable to share the mailing list. He noted that Professor Don Silberberg was very interested in publishing information from National Societies and encouraged Delegates to send submissions to him.

17. Regional Liaison Committee Reports

a. Africa Initiative

Dr Amadou Gallo Diop reported that the Africa Initiative was trying to move forward. The Pan-African Congress took place in the Ivory Coast where many countries expressed interest in joining the WFN. The teaching course, in cooperation with EAN, took place in Zambia. This course was a good example of how cooperation can have a positive impact.

Dr Diop noted that there were more opportunities for young neurologists to be trained, including the new visiting fellow program in Rabat, Morocco. In future the focus would be on training, how to improve the experience of young neurologists and how to have more visiting professors. It would also focus on the evaluation of curricula and how to deliver a good university diploma.

Dr Diop noted that the situation was improving in Africa and a difference was being made. He encouraged Delegates to commit to being involved in the activities.

b. Asia Initiative

Dr Shakir reported that the AOAN was now a mature organization based in Singapore with Kenes Asia as its PCO. They held an excellent meeting in Macao and were planning another in Kuala Lumpur in 2016. The President was Professor Man Mohan Mehndiratta.

Dr Shakir reported that he was pleased to have been invited for the first time to a meeting of the Chinese Society in Xiamin.

c. Latin America Initiative

Dr Gustavo Roman reported that the Pan American Federation of Neurological Societies had been established. It had been organized following the European model and had the support of the AAN and WFN. The next venue for a Latin American congress would be discussed at WCN 2015 in Chile.

Dr Roman reported that there was a great need for education in the region. The situation across the region differed widely and the federation hoped to expand and continue existing activities and be able to coordinate and enhance efforts.

18. Announcement of Election Results

The voting for the Elected Trustee was declared with a majority of over 50% after the second round of voting for **Dr Riadh Gouider**.

Dr Shakir congratulated the winner and thanked all the candidates for participating.

19. Any Other Business

The Delegate for Turkey asked whether a special session about ICD 11 could be organized for the next congress. Dr Shakir replied that, as Chair of the ICD 11 group at the WHO, he expected much of the ICD 11 training would be computer based, but that it could make a good training session for WCN 2017 in Japan. He noted that there would be a WHO session at WCN 2015 which would include ICD 11.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.